

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:

On page 1, replace, between the title and the first paragraph "Description" with --

This application is the national stage of PCT/EP2004/010867 filed on September 29, 2004 and also claims Paris Convention priority of DE 103 46 074.8 filed on October 04, 2003.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --.

On page 2, insert as a title prior to the first full paragraph --

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --

Amend the first full paragraph on page 2 as follows --

This object is achieved by the method claimed in ~~claim 1~~the independent method claim. This method is characterized by the following steps: Storing a limit time when the nearest point of the obstacle disappears from the detecting range of the distance measuring means as the distance measuring device and the obstacle approach each other; storing a projected limit distance between the nearest point of the obstacle and the distance measuring device at the limit time; and detecting the projected distance between the nearest point of the obstacle and the distance measuring device, thereby taking into consideration the limit distance, the limit time and information about the relative motion between the distance measuring device and the obstacle as long as the nearest point of the obstacle is outside of the detecting range of the distance measuring device. --.

On page 3 insert as a title prior to the brief description of the drawing

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING --

On page 4 insert as a title following the brief description of the drawing --

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT --.

On page 9 replace as a title on line one "Claims" with

-- WE CLAIM: --